THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total cost incurred is Rs. 5,68,720.

(c) There are no specific government guidelines for the Public Sector Enterprises for issuing advertisements in such cases. It was the homage paid by the MTNL to the leader whose vision lead to the creation of MTNL;

Bifurcation of the Office of Director of Accounts Department of posts and Telegraphs, Nagpur

1952. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Director of Accounts (Postal) Nagpur under the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is being bifurcated and some of its work is being diverted to Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of Gujarat Postal Circle is also being looked after by the Office of Director of Accounts (Postal), Nagpur, which is also entrusted with the task of maintenance of the circle accounts of Maharashtra. As a consequence, the work of the Director of Accounts (Postal), Nagpur, is unwidely and requires bifurcation in the interest of efficiency. The scheme of departmentalisation of Postal Accounts, which came into effect from 1.4.1976. Envisages setting up of separate Postal Accounts Office for each Postal Circle. In view of these reasons, the accounts work pertaining to Gujarat Postal Circle is being transferred to Ahmedabad from Nagpur.

Inadequate Telephone Staff

1953. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no corresponding increase in the number of telephone staff in relation to the increase in the number of telephone connections;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has a negative impact on the efficiency of telephone services; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to introduction of new technologies and upgradation of skills, there is no corresponding increase in the number of telephone staff in relation to increase in the number of telephone connections.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Leasing of Equipment by MTNL

1954. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has decided to lease its equipment to meet the targets for telephone in Bombay and Delhi and to clear the waiting list; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) With a view to provide more